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them. The theories of Value and Price are the central portion of his book, and he does not believe in a rigid separation of the science of Political Economy from the art. He devotes a hundred pages to stating the presuppositions of Political Economy and its relations to the other social, natural and political sciences, coming at the end of these pages to some closer study of what an economy means, tracing out the relations existing between personal and household economy and the economy of groups and peoples. His treatment of Value precedes that of Goods and Riches, and is on the whole a very solid and unified presentation of what two schools of economists have elaborated by their investigations. He has recourse to mathematics in his treatment of the movements of prices; and the whole theory of natural price, and of labor as its measure, comes in toward the end of his book, after his independent discussion of value and prices in the light of the idea of quantity of things supplied relatively to quantity of things demanded. The science of political economy is thus reconstructed in his hands, and yet presented in a perfectly free and natural way.

One of the advantages of the book is that in it there is no straining after over-exactness in definition. Early in his discussion the author says that it is useless to try to define at the outset things whose nature is afterwards to be explained. Political Economy is to him all that has been legitimately decided to explain matters economical by all the representatives of the science. Those who wish to get a methodized presentation of the aggregate subject-matter of Political Economy, cannot do better than turn to this volume. It represents a kind of work which has to be done from time to time in the history of every science, and Dr. Lehr has probably been selected as a writer in this series of advanced manuals on account of his power of condensed definite statement of what is established and defined. It is a difficult book, but none the less satisfactory at that.

W. C.

Die Entstehung Volkswirtschaft. SECHS VORTRÄGE. By DR. KARL BÜCHER. Tübingen: Laupp'sche Buchhandlung, 1893. 8vo. pp. vi + 304.

As is explained by the title this book presents us with the material of some six lectures delivered by Dr. Bücher at different times and in different places, now presented in collected form, partly in conces-

sion to request, and partly out of his own desire to bring so much cognate matter together. He says in his preface that the title of the first lecture describes the whole, or the spirit of the whole, and when we take him at his word, we find his book to contain primarily and essentially some very interesting and important reflections and criticisms and suggestions, or what, for want of a better or stereotyped term, might be called the Philosophy of Economic History. The capital discovery of the whole is, I think, the notion of different economic types, or forms, what he himself is forced to call, in at least two places, a morphology—the morphology of economics—and Dr. Bücher's careful discursive work consists in setting forth the proper method of treating of various economies, such as the different ways of conducting industry (*Betriebssysteme*, in the second lecture), or the household economy as opposed to the burg-economy, etc.; and his own work of suggestion and construction consists in drawing up various schemata for the interpretation of economic history, which he proceeds to verify from history, and in one or two cases from statistics. Chapter v., on the Population of Frankfort in the Middle Ages, contains material out of his coming book on that subject, and chapter vi. gives us an account of the evolution of the newspaper as an organ of the modern world of industry.

In his first or main methodological lecture, Dr. Bücher starts from the somewhat well-worn theme of the differences between the Historical and the Classical or Dogmatic School of Political Economists. He makes some perfectly trite remarks in this connection, such as that the Historical School desires to make Economics the theory of the economic development of peoples, while the Classical School wants to establish the laws of the present economic organization of society. It is perhaps too true that "the whole of Modern Socialism stands, as to method, on the same scientific ground as Manchester-ism;" but then Socialism is not necessarily a growth of the Historical School, although it has always stood in some sort of antithesis to Classical Political Economy. On the whole, Dr. Bücher agrees with the opinion that neither the Classical nor the Historical School could use either deduction or induction exclusively. It is their different objects, he says twice, that differentiate the two schools; but beyond the hint already given, he does not satisfy us on this point. What he establishes by way of contention in the first half of his first essay is that the Historical School is guilty of an error which it has always gloried in ascribing to the

Classical School; this error is what philosophers call the dogmatic use of certain categories or points of view. If the Classical School, for example, talked about division of labor as if it were everywhere natural and everywhere existent, the Historical School made a glib and superficial use of such distinctions as those of List (List by the way is pretty far back in time to be used as an example of the Historical School) between the nomad and the pastoral and the agricultural stages, or as those of Hildebrand between Natural-Economy, Money-Economy, and Credit-Economy.

The author offers us a three-fold principle of his own for interpreting economic history: the periods of the Closed Household Economy, of the Burg or Town Economy, and of the National Economy. He applies these categories to history, and gets a corresponding number of different economic forms or structures. His treatment of these different forms is characterized by a balance between the historical method of seeking for origins, and the morphological method of simply studying the significance of economies as forms or structures. Of course much that he says is useful by way of description of fact; *e. g.*, that in the economy of the mediæval town there were no equivalents for such modern phenomena as rent and loan, that the community of consumers and the community of producers are gradually apparently separated from each other, that consumption goods are the early equivalent of capital, and that income and wealth or general possessions form one undifferentiated whole in the first stages of economy. There is much valuable material on the political aspects of the mediæval economy, but it is all part, like everything else, of his general application of the morphological idea to economic phenomena. He has to confess in the end that this is only a plea for doing all over the economic field what the classical economists did for the facts of modern times. This is exactly what Professor Dunbar hinted in his article on the "Reaction in Political Economy," and one sees at a glance that Dr. Bücher's work in this volume is primarily of methodological and general significance.

The second lecture approaches the suggestive topic of the different systems or forms of labor, the different ways in which labor is applied (*Betriebssysteme*), with the same persistent polemic against "rationalistic construction" and preconceived ideas and *à priori*sm. Dr. Bücher finds that the classical economists have been far too prone to regard hand labor as the normal form of industry, as in fact

an ideal to be realized, although they all knew or thought with Smith that its realization lay in the past. The whole way of thinking about labor in the past and about possible developments of labor has been colored by this ideal, he thinks. He himself gives us again a morphological or structural, but only partly historical, study of the five forms of industry which he distinguishes as Home-Industry, Paid-Labor, Hand-Labor, the Small Industry System of the merchant or middleman, and the Factory. Although his aim is "precise morphological exposition," as he calls it, one feels that he deserts the morphological standpoint sometimes in seeking for absolute beginnings or first things and second things *in order of time*. He characterizes the hand-labor system by saying it can only be, at best, working to order, to expressed demand (*Kundenproduktion*), and the small producer system by saying that it only organizes a part of the production process, while the factory organizes the whole of the production of a commodity—the latter alone is completely organized production in view of an end. He closes the lecture by pointing out that there are always causes at work which carry a system of industry on to fuller developments.

The interesting question of the relations between economic groups and social classes is discussed in another lecture. It is Dr. Bücher's purpose to submit the doctrine of the classical economists on the division of labor to a sharp criticism, and to study the application of that doctrine to Social Science. His questions are, "What is Division of Labor?" and "How does it apply to the formation of social classes?" He points out five useful ways of regarding division of labor; as implying in fact, division in production, labor on different parts of a product, specialization in occupation, the formation of different callings in life and change in methods of production. Each of these different phases of the matter has had its day in different periods of the industrial development of the race. Adam Smith did not give an exact psychological analysis of the tendency to economic action, but simply alleged the tendency in human nature to exchange as the one cause of division of labor. This is altogether too general a criticism, for very few human tendencies were understood completely by modern psychology in 1776. Economists, again, have not fully analyzed, says Dr. Bücher, the consequences of the division of labor; the social consequences alone have attracted attention.

Obviously, Dr. Bücher has some promising positive investigative work on hand, and these lectures show us the structures he is prepared

to draw up for himself and others in the treatment of Economic History; it is to be with him a study of forms. It is natural enough to find, in the history of the introduction of the idea of evolution into matters economic, the specific idea of morphology following the general idea of organism. The book is thus firstly a contribution to the subject of Scientific Method in Political Economy. It is clear, and suggestive.

W.

Natural Value. By FRIEDRICH VON WIESER. Edited with a Preface and Analysis by WILLIAM SMART, LL.D. The translation by CHRISTIAN A. MALLOCH. London: Macmillan & Co., 1893. 8vo. pp. xlv+243.

DR. WILLIAM SMART, of the University of Glasgow, already well known as the translator of Böhm-Bawerk and as the author of an excellent manual on the theory of value, has enlarged his claims to the gratitude of English readers by having inspired the present translation of Wieser's brilliant work on *Natural Value*. The work of the translator, Mrs. Malloch, has been very well done. The translation is accurate, fluent and as lucid as the occasional cloudiness of the original would permit. The usefulness of the volume has been materially increased in its English dress by the editor's careful exposition and restatement of points that are likely to present special difficulties to English readers, and by the elaborate analytical table of contents. Indeed, so admirably has the work of translating and editing been done, that the volume might well stand as a model of what an English version of a foreign economic treatise should be.

Little need be said about the character and contents of Wieser's work. The leading features of his thought have already been made fairly familiar to English readers through the discussions which the Marginal Utility theory of value has occasioned in recent years. Though not the last, in point of publication, of the brilliant writings of the Austrian economists, Wieser's work has, perhaps, the best claims to be regarded as the strongest and ripest product yet brought forth by that school. As such it is likely to be a centre of discussion for some time to come. The chief interest of the volume lies in Books iii., iv. and v. In the former, Wieser gives a theory of distribution founded on the Marginal Law of Value. In the last, he attempts a reconciliation of the law of costs with the doctrine of Marginal Utility, by treat-